

Once upon a time, there lived a great king. His name was Midas. King Midas had a daughter. She was very sweet. She made King Midas happy. She brought him flowers each morning. King Midas loved her very much.

King Midas also loved gold. He loved to see his stacks of gold shining in the sunlight. He counted his gold every morning. Soon he began to wish for more.

His daughter saw that he had become unhappy. She tried to cheer him by bringing to him the most beautiful flowers in the land. But still King Midas was unhappy. He found beauty only in things that were made of gold.

Midas ate only from golden dishes. He drank only from golden cups. He even combed his hair with a golden comb!

One evening, after supper, Midas was counting his gold. He looked up and saw a tiny man standing next to his chair. "What do you want?" King Midas asked. "I am here because you are unhappy. I am here to help you," the tiny man replied. "How?" asked Midas. "By granting you a wish," the tiny man said, smiling.

"I wish for everything I touch to turn to gold!" Midas said quickly. The tiny man smiled and said, "Your wish will come true."

King Midas was the happiest king in the land. He danced a jig. He clicked his heels. He sang at the top of his lungs. King Midas was finally happy. Everything he touched would turn to gold!

Midas stopped dancing. Should he not try his new power? Would his wish really come true?

Midas went to his garden. He put his hand in the pond. The water turned to gold. Then he touched a pink rose. It also turned to gold. Midas was very happy.

The king was hungry. But when he touched his food it turned to gold. When he tried to drink, it too turned stiff and shiny.

Then King Midas heard his daughter crying. "What is wrong?" he asked. "All of the flowers are stiff now that you have turned them to gold. They are ugly," she cried.

Seeing that his daughter was unhappy, Midas put his arms around her. As he touched her, Midas felt her turn stiff and golden. Then King Midas was horrified. He knew that his power to turn things to gold was useless. He knew that he loved his daughter more than anything on earth.

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